

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-23/83)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr SUTRA DE GERMA, Mr GLINNE, Mr SABY, Mr EYRAUD,
Mrs DESOUCHES, Mr RUFFOLO and Mr RIPA DI MEANA
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Vignerons Occitans

The producer group 'Les Vignerons Occitans', which sells some of the wine produced in the South of France to the United Kingdom, has suffered substantial losses as the result of the bankruptcy of its buyer.

Surprisingly, the British Government has retained the customs duties paid by 'Les Vignerons Occitans' even though the goods have not been paid for.

In such cases, should not the British Government be obliged to reimburse duties levied on goods that have not been paid for?

The losses incurred through the unnecessary payment of duties amount to more than quadruple the value of the product lost.

Is it conceivable, in a Europe supposedly allowing the free movement of goods, for wine growers who venture to sell their product in the United Kingdom to risk losing a total amounting to five times the value of the product of a year's labour?

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PE 84.431

Does the Commission think it normal that the buyer should have demanded payment of duties by the supplier in advance?

Does the Commission intend to see that the United Kingdom reimburses the duties to the producer group, which did not owe them and which has lost everything?

Does the Commission intend to bring up with the United Kingdom the fact that certain of its traders demand the advance payment of customs duties, arguing that these have to be paid when the goods are cleared through customs whereas the buyer refuses to pay them before receiving possession of the goods?